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Firefighter Jack Wozney, seen here Tuesday at Edmonton Station One, was one of the 200 Edmonton firefighters who went to Slave Lake after the wildfires swept through the town one year ago. LAURIE CALLEN/METRO

Firefighters relive Slave Lake effort

One-year anniversary.

Deployment of Alberta firefighters key in fighting tragic blaze

As the province reflects on the one-year anniversary of the devastating fires that swept through Slave Lake, Edmonton firefighters still vividly recall battling the inferno.

Edmonton Fire Rescue sent more than 200 off-duty firefighters, reserve trucks and support vehicles to Slave Lake on May 15, 2011.

Edmonton firefighter Jack Wozney got the call at midnight that day to get over to the provincial operations centre and start gathering resources from all corners of the province.

"I couldn't imagine what they were going through. I was talking to fire chief Jamie Coutts



Debris littered Slave Lake after massive fires ripped through the town last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

on radio and he was asking to send whatever we can," Wozney recalled. "He was so emotionally and physically drained."

Coutts said the deployment of firefighters came right when they were needed most.

"Edmonton firefighters were key. They came in large numbers and at a critical time," he said.

Volunteers from across the province and Canada, including more than 1,000 firefighters,

travelled to Slave Lake to help with the fires and rebuilding.

"It was wonderful to hear so many people talk about how Albertans responded, like first responders, volunteers and the Red Cross. It's not the sort of day we ever expect to have in Alberta and Albertans really came through," Premier Alison Redford said at a ceremony in Slave Lake to mark the anniversary of the wildfires.

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Building on education

School design to evolve under new minister

Bringing with him experience working on Alberta's infrastructure portfolio, the new education minister is looking at pushing the boundaries of school design in the province.

Offering up his first insights since being named the top dog on primary education in Alberta, Minister Jeff Johnson said new schools his government has pledged to build will likely incorporate more of a "multiplex" design.

During the recent provincial election campaign, Premier Alison Redford pledged to build 50 new schools in Alberta and upgrade 70 others by 2017.

"Obviously, there's a certain piece of school capital that can be cookie-cuttered, but I think we also need to recognize the uniqueness of every community," Johnson said.

To the new minister, this could mean a design that includes components of both a school and community recreation centre, health clinic or maybe even a district police station.

Some communities have already experimented with such designs, and Alberta School Board Association president Jacquie Hansen said research indicates schools are more likely to maintain enrolment if they offer value to the community beyond just classrooms and chalkboards.

"This is something we have been talking about for a very long time," Hansen added. "I have to say I am very excited about this idea, this concept." **JEREMY NOLAN/METRO**

Vader. Court date put over until next month

A man charged in the deaths of an Alberta couple has had his court date put over.

Travis Vader appeared in court today in Edson on charges of first-degree murder.

His alleged victims, Lyle and Marie McCann, both in their 70s, were last seen fueling up their motorhome in St. Albert, for a trip to British Columbia in July 2010. The couple has never been found.

Vader's next court date is scheduled for June 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Travis Vader THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Fatal mid-air crash. Left wings touched: Official

A transport official says a mid-air collision that killed five people in Saskatchewan occurred when the left wings of the two small planes came into contact.

Wreckage from the Piper PA-28 and Lake Buccaneer amphibious plane includes marks that show the wings of the single-engine aircraft touched before the planes plummeted almost straight down, Peter Hildebrand of the Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

"The wreckage came down almost vertically in its final trajectory," said Hildebrand, who added that there was no way anyone could have survived the impact.

The crash occurred Saturday near St. Brieux northeast of Saskatoon. The Piper's three Alberta occupants — Mossleigh residents Eric Donovan, his son Wade and pilot Denny Loree — as well as a Regina couple in the Buccaneer were killed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbourhood construction ramps up

Project. City pours \$215 million into city-wide infrastructure projects in 2012

LUCY HAINES

edmonton@metronews.ca

City planners are moving forward with their Building Great Neighbourhoods initiative in 2012, renewing aging neighbourhoods with new drainage, streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and street lights.

Adam Laughlin, director of Neighbourhood Renewal, Transportation Services, said the \$150 million his department will spend in 2012 includes work in nine areas.

"It's about improving accessibility and walkability for residents," he said. "It makes the area more liveable and sustainable — for the city it's a cost-effective, long-term strategic approach — preventive maintenance," he said.

The Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program takes the improvements a step further by working with residents on



Renewal continues in the southeast Edmonton neighbourhood of Capilano with new roads and sidewalks now under construction. LUCY HAINES/METRO

shared pathways and street-scaping. Stephane Labonne, director of Great Neighbour-

hoods, Community Services, said residents do have to deal with construction noise and

Community renewal

- Infrastructure, transportation and community services co-ordinate operations, spending about five years to rehab a neighbourhood.
- Great Neighbourhoods is spending \$18.5 million, including an expansion to the Goldbar community league hall and street-scaping on Alberta Ave.
- Construction starts in 2012 in Canora, Dovercourt, Kin Edward Park, Terrace Heights, Windsor Park and Woodcroft, with work finishing in West Jasper Place, Capilano and Parkallen.

traffic disruptions, but they can see the improvements as a long-term investment in the area.

"People are generally ecstatic they can move easily through their neighbourhoods on new roads and sloped sidewalks. When you can get out and walk or bike, that improves community connections," he said.



NEWS

On the web

Tween blasts banks

The latest tirade against Canada's banking system isn't coming from a leading economist, but from a 12-year-old Cambridge, Ont., girl. Posted by her father, Victoria Grant's lectures have been making the web rounds and making headlines. Watch the pint-sized pundit at metronews.ca

Mobile news



Barack Obama is holding his own when it comes to pop culture. The U.S. president passed The View's pop quiz, proving he's keeping up with the Kardashians and knows his superheroes. Scan the code to see if he passed the Fifty Shades of Grey test



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Rafferty is a 'monster,' judge says at sentencing

25 years in prison.

Condemns killer for snuffing out young life in order to gratify his 'twisted and deviant desire'

Michael Rafferty maintained his innocence Tuesday in the brutal abduction, rape and killing of Victoria Stafford as the judge presiding over the case labelled him a "monster."

Rafferty apologized to the eight-year-old girl's family in court after hearing the devastating effects of her death three years ago, but staunchly denied carrying out the crimes he was convicted of Friday.

"I am guilty of many crimes and there are a lot of things I am very, very ashamed of, but these three counts I still stand firmly behind not guilty," he said.

At the same time, he admitted to being "very definitely part of why Victoria's

A loss that's forever

"My sister was the only person I had to talk to. Someone that felt what I felt, cried when I cried... Now I feel alone."

Daryn Stafford, brother of Victoria

not here today," and offered to privately reveal "all the pieces of the puzzle" to Tori's mother. It was the first time Rafferty has spoken in his own defence, as he did not take the stand during the trial.

Rafferty was formally sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 25 years. He was also sentenced to 10 years to be served concurrently for sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Superior Court Justice Thomas Heeney condemned Rafferty for snuffing out the life of a beautiful and innocent girl. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Daryn Stafford, brother of Victoria, leaves court with family members on Tuesday. GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skateboarder dies

Cabbie charged

Police have laid a murder charge after a skateboarder died following a collision involving a taxi in downtown Toronto.

The victim is Ralph Bissonnette, 28. Adib Ibrahim, 43, is charged with second-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops found chemicals

Chemicals 'plausible' for rocketry hobby: Judge

G20 activist, Byron Sonne, 39, has been acquitted on all charges, after a judge said the Crown failed to prove he would make bombs.

The self-described security geek said the chemicals were for his rocketry hobby, an explanation that Ontario Superior Court Justice Nancy Spies said was plausible. Sonne also maintained he was trying to expose gaps in the \$1-billion summit's security. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

True love story: Aerobatic pilot marries prince



Jordan's Princess Basmah al Hussein, formerly Basmah Hasan of Stratford, Ont., and husband Prince Hamzah Al Hussein. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

A barnstorming Stratford, Ont., woman with a daredevil streak and a passion for adventure has quietly become a member of Jordan's royal family.

Aerobatic pilot Basmah Hasan became Princess Basmah in January after she wed Prince Hamzah of Jordan's Hashemite royal family.

Hamzah is the son of the late King Hussein and his American-born wife, Queen Noor, and is a senior officer in Jordan's forces. He is the half-brother of the current King. The couple met while

33-year-old Hasan was working as the chief pilot at the Royal Aero Sports Club of Jordan last year.

She had blazed a trail in the skies over the Arab world by becoming the first certified aerobatic pilot and a certified glider pilot in the country.

The prince, 32, was a fixed-wing pilot trained at Britain's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

"She fell in love with this man, madly in love with him, they're very much in love," says sister Yasmen Hasan of

Ottawa, the family's spokesperson.

"You can just see it. When you're in the room with them it's electric. She happened to fall in love with a man who's a prince, but it's the man she's with, that's who she's dedicated her life to, and him to her, and he just happened to have that title and come from that family."

Hasan moved to Jordan in 2004, leaving her mathematics studies at the University of Western Ontario to pursue a dream of becoming a pilot.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Humble and intelligent':

"She's a totally adventurous person, but she's the most humble, graceful, gracious, intelligent person you're ever going to meet. She fits perfectly with the (royal) family," says Princess Basmah's sister Yasmen, of Ottawa.

Her parents Mike and Halloul are from affluent Jordanian families. The four children were born here.



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Massacre to shine light on Syria?

Now UN team may tell world. Observers nearby as troops fire on funeral mourners, 20 feared dead

Burst of violence

"This is a real massacre and it took place in the presence of UN observers."

Rami Abdul-Rahman,
human rights official.

A United Nations convoy of observers was blasted by a roadside bomb in Syria on Tuesday.

It happened just minutes after regime forces gunned down mourners at a funeral procession nearby, witnesses said. Twenty people may have been killed.

It was not clear how close the observers were to the funeral shootings. But if confirmed, a regime attack on civilians directly in front of the observers could put pressure on them to describe publicly what they are seeing in Syria. They report back to the UN but have not publicized their findings.

A video of the bomb attack was posted online by activists. There were no injuries.

"The front of a UN car took a direct hit," said activist Fadi al-Yassin. "Everyone ran in panic but the observers stayed in the car. People tried to talk to them but they wouldn't even open their windows."

The two attacks took place in the town of Khan Sheikhoun. Last week, a roadside bomb struck a Syrian military truck in the south of the country just seconds after the head of the U.N. observers team drove by in a convoy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Quebec protests kick into high gear

A student protester puts the boot in during a pitched battle with police Tuesday at a junior college north of Montreal in the provincial furor over tuition hikes. Police fired chemical irritants at about 100 protesters who were blocking students from entering the college. In Montreal, 19 people were arrested Tuesday after access was blocked to the Jacques Cartier Bridge, a key commuter link. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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STEVE MARTEL
— LIVE THE DREAM —

CIBC, Rogers unite to make credit cards out of BlackBerries

Future wave? Research released by Google suggests Canadians are lukewarm on the idea

Within months, Canadian shoppers could have the option of paying for purchases with cash, credit or by BlackBerry.

Whether they'll actually do so is another matter.

CIBC and Rogers Communications announced a partnership Tuesday that will harness the Near Field Communication technology built into newer BlackBerries, allowing the phones to act like a credit card at checkout.

The technology will work exclusively with CIBC credit card accounts and BlackBerries on the Rogers network at launch, which is tentatively scheduled for "later this year."

"Some people might not carry a wallet but they'll always



A BlackBerry smartphone.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

have their smartphone," said David Williamson, senior executive vice-president of retail and business banking for CIBC.

But consumer surveys suggest Canadians may not be all that keen on the notion of a digital wallet.

New research released Tuesday by Google suggested Canadians are lukewarm on the idea of using their phones to make online purchases. After speaking with 1,000 Canadian smartphone users, only 20 per cent said they had made a mobile purchase and only 16 per cent said they expected to boost their mobile shopping in the following year.

Meanwhile, a Mastercard research project called the Mobile Payments Readiness Index ranked Canada as the second best of 34 global markets in terms of being set to embrace mobile transactions (Singapore ranked first).

But while Canada ranked high for its partnerships between banks and governments, and its business and regulatory environments, it was below average when it came to the consumer-readiness metric.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Protesting the Power Corporation

Police clash with protesters outside the Power Corp. annual general meeting in Old Montreal Tuesday where a few dozen protesters denounced Quebec's richest family. The brothers who head investment conglomerate said they were being unfairly criticized as the company's annual meeting became the latest target in the ongoing protests in Quebec. "I think Power Corp. is a very good example of the one per cent and it shows how private companies can be more powerful than some countries," said a female protestor, who didn't want to give her name. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit. Strauss-Kahn suing N.Y.C. maid

Dominique Strauss-Kahn is suing the hotel housekeeper who accused him of sexually assaulting her, saying she seriously damaged his reputation with what he calls a bogus allegation.

The former International Monetary Fund leader and French presidential hopeful struck back at maid Nafissatou Diallo's lawsuit against him with denials and a \$1-million defamation claim

of his own Monday, exactly a year after she told police he tried to rape her in his Manhattan hotel suite. He says whatever happened was consensual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Survey

Finding the right employees is the challenge: CEOs

A survey of CEOs at Canadian tech startup companies says finding and keeping employees with the right skills is their biggest challenge.

The PwC annual survey

found that 26 per cent of CEOs surveyed said "managing" talent was their biggest issue, followed by 25 per cent of those surveyed who said revenue was their main concern and 18 per cent who cited funding. Poor performance and poor skills were most often cited as the reason why CEOs let staff go, the survey said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal computers

Software piracy totals \$1.1 billion

The value of software piracy in Canada totalled more than \$1.1 billion last year with 40 per cent of computer users admitting they acquired software illegally, according to a study released Tuesday.

The Business Software Alliance study found that

nearly one in three copies of software was unlicensed in Canada in 2011.

The study also found that admitted software pirates in Canada were predominantly male between the ages of 25 and 34. Globally, the study found that piracy rates in emerging markets towered over those in mature markets — at 68 per cent, compared to 24 per cent, on average.

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Facebook. Raised IPO values company at more than \$100 billion US

Already expected to be the largest-ever initial public offering for an Internet company, Facebook is making its IPO even bigger.

On Tuesday, the world's largest online social network increased the planned price range for its stock to \$34 to \$38 US per share in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. That's up from its previous range of \$28 to \$35 US. At the upper limit of \$38, the sale would raise about \$12.8 billion US. The move, which values Facebook as high as \$104 billion US, comes amid growing investor excitement about the offering. Analysts are comparing the frenzy surrounding Facebook's IPO to Google's in 2004, though

Quoted

"This is a deal that literally must work, in that it is so high-profile."

Scott Sweet, owner of advisory firm IPOBoutique

in sheer size the latter pales in comparison.

At the same time, half of Americans think the expected value for Facebook is too high, according to a new Associated Press-CNBC poll conducted before the company raised its expected stock price on Tuesday. Only a third of those surveyed said they think Facebook's expected value is appropriate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Murdoch's media star charged

One of Rupert Murdoch's most trusted lieutenants, former U.K. tabloid editor Rebekah Brooks, seen leaving her lawyer's office in London with husband Charlie Brooks, was charged Tuesday alongside five others with conspiring to hide evidence of phone hacking. The 43-year-old Brooks, who quit as News International chief executive in July, faces three separate allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice — an offence which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The charges against Brooks, her husband and four aides are the first prosecutions since police reopened inquiries 18 months ago into wrongdoing by the country's scandal-hungry press.

SEAN DEMPSEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds send out mixed signals for EI changes

Suitable employment.

No plan to force workers to take 'any job available', human resources minister tells the Commons

The Harper government sent confusing signals Tuesday about coming changes to employment insurance rules, declaring in favour of a hard-line approach while indicating the new measures will be moderate.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley told the House of Commons there's no plan to force jobless workers receiving EI benefits to take any job available, as the finance minister seemed to suggest the day before. "Canadians will be expected to take jobs appropriate to their skill level in their area," she said.

That is decidedly differ-

ent from Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's comments on Monday, when he said he was brought up to believe that "any job is a good job" and that the current EI rules are a disincentive to work. Canadians won't know exactly what the government has in mind until new regulations on defining "suitable employment" are unveiled in the next few months.

In response to a question in the Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appeared to back his finance minister. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
99.32¢
(-0.39¢)



TSX
11,343.05 (-145.48)



OIL
\$93.98 US (-80¢)



GOLD
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Natural gas: \$2.50 US (+6.9¢)
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AND WE THOUGHT THIS STUFF WAS ONLY IN MOVIES



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

While the rest of us are lined up at the multiplex to watch CGI superheroes toss CGI arch-villains around in *The Avengers*, the real nerds have, as you might expect, already moved on.

To something called “quantum entanglement.”

Quantum entanglement is weird. Somehow, subatomic particles act on each other and it doesn't matter if they're in the same room or at opposite ends of the Milky Way. As soon as you know that one is “up,” you know the other is “down” and vice versa. That's an oversimplification, but this entire column is an oversimplification. Trust me, you really don't want the unabridged version.

Quantum entanglement is so weird it blew Einstein's mind. He called it “spooky action at a distance,” and thought it invalidated quantum theory until physicist John Bell proved it actually happens, thereby inventing Bell's Theorem.

Weird as it may be, quantum entanglement has fired up the imaginations of scientists everywhere, who think that

someday it will mean super-fast quantum computers, instant communications across vast distances, time-travel and even teleportation, as in “Beam me up, Scotty.”

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy. The real Kirk has died and is left behind on Regulus III — his quantum copy just doesn't know it.

Beam me up, Scotty

As we speak, on science blogs everywhere, people are earnestly debating the safety hazards associated with teleportation — whether or not it's the actual Captain Kirk who arrives back on the Enterprise or a quantum copy.

Back on the real Earth, progress is being made on untangling quantum entanglement. One group of Chinese scientists have managed to entangle eight photons (particles of light), and just this week another group of Chinese scientists announced that they have managed to go where no geek has gone before, teleporting an entangled pair of quantum bits, or qubits, 97 kilometres across a lake.

This is a big deal, as the damn qubits have a habit of unravelling or unentangling or whatever, due to problems not encountered in theorems, such as imperfections in optics and air turbulence. It may seem like a small step for humankind (actually really small — subatomic, even), but how long could it be before we can instantly beam William Shatner from one Priceline hotel to the other?

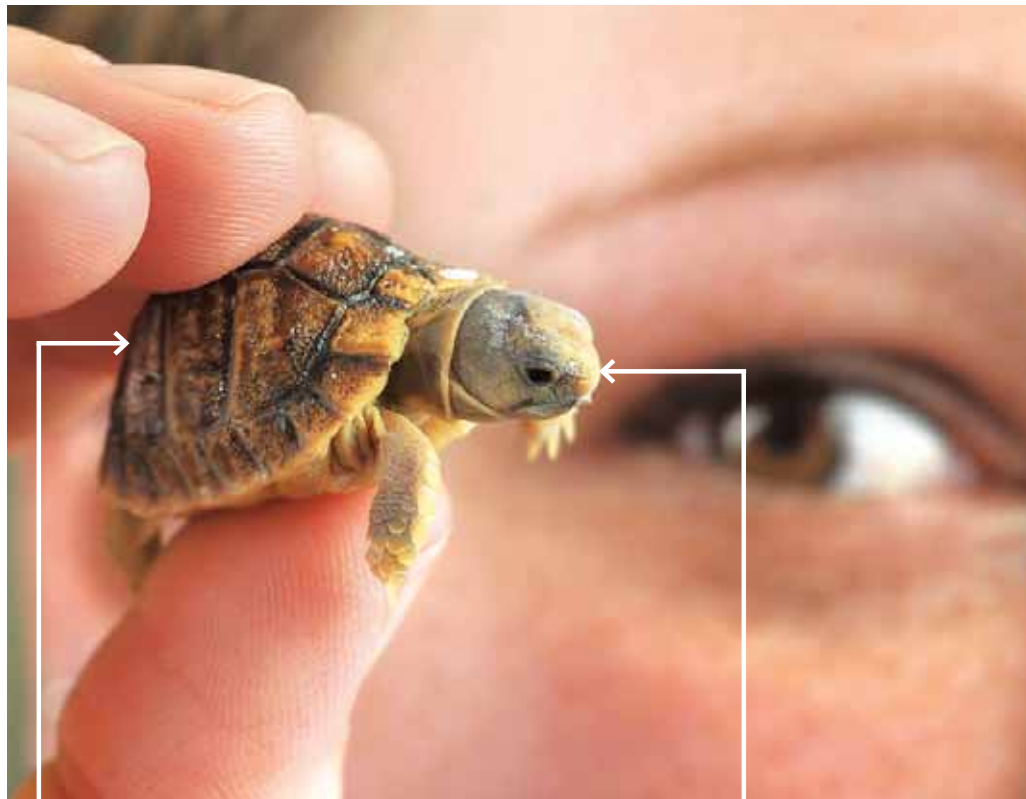
You have to love this stuff, even if it never means you'll be able to honeymoon on Shiralea VI and be back in time for work on Monday. As you think about this idea, of real matter acting in lockstep mysteriously across time and space, you get a glimpse of just how wonderful and mysterious the universe really is.

And you don't have to pay for parking or popcorn.



Boldly going where no man has gone before. CONTRIBUTED

Walk like an Egyptian turtle



ZACHARY CULPIN/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Saving a species

Endangered tiny tortoises born

It's only the size of a coin, but this tortoise is priceless. Four hatchlings of the critically endangered Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*) have been born at Marwell Wildlife, near Winchester, Hampshire, south England. Only just over a week old, the smallest of the youngsters weighed just 3.1 grams after hatching.

METRO WORLD NEWS

In numbers

2.14

centimetres is the approximate height of the first Egyptian tortoise hatchling, the same as the diameter of a small coin.

Facts and figures

- **Live long but still small.** Adults live for up to 50 years. These tortoises can grow to around 15 centimetres long and weigh 500 grams. This species of tortoise is the smallest in the northern hemisphere. The speckled padloper of South Africa is the world's smallest tortoise.
- **Egyptian by name only.** It's believed the Egyptian tortoise no longer exists in its namesake country. The species disappeared there some twenty years ago due to acidification of land, overgrazing and pet trade over-collecting.

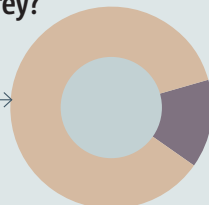
- **In decline.** “Their numbers have declined severely in the last 30 years,” Sherif Baha el-Din, scientific adviser at the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, told ABC News. He said a survey in Egypt in 1994 had failed to locate any wild tortoises at all. “They are very ancient animals and haven't changed much over the years, which makes them more susceptible to problems.”



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@carlapr: Saw a survival-of-the-fittest nature situation on my walk to work. It involved a @yegmagpie. Shudder. #yeg #urbanjungle

@kerrydiotte: @YegMosquito FYI, I had my first skeeter bite o' the year last night.

Bit early for you and your blood-thirsty kind, no? #yeg

@searleturton: #yyc is testing their new west LRT route today. Wouldnt a new west LRT route be nice #YEG? I can only dream...

@Arbital: Hey #yeg, let's all assume that if there is no dotted line on your street, that means there is no law there. Go nuts. #fb

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SCENE

Awards-show accident

Michaels gets Tony Awards settlement

Bret Michaels and organizers of the Tony Awards have settled a lawsuit filed by the rocker after a 2009 incident in which he was hit in the head with a set piece and suffered injuries that contributed to a brain hemorrhage that nearly killed him.

The confidential settlement also covers Michaels' claims against CBS, which aired the show — and the mishap, which became a viral video watched by tens of millions online.

The Poison frontman blamed the network for airing the moment and claimed Tony Awards producers never warned him there would be a set change after he and his band performed 'Nothin' But a Good Time'.

The whack initially left Michaels with a busted lip and broken nose, but also caused brain bleeding. He was hospitalized in April 2010 and doctors found he had a brain hemorrhage and he later suffered a warning stroke, which the musician says nearly killed him.

Michaels' attorney Alex Weingarten said details of the settlement would not be released. "Mr. Michaels would like to thank his fans for their continued support," he wrote in a statement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web



Kennedy Center to honour Ellen DeGeneres with Mark Twain award, the nation's top humour prize.

Unlikely rom-com

**Dictator forces you to be entertained**

The Dictator

Director. Larry Charles

Stars: Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris

● ● ● ● ●

Although it's more conventional than his breakout hit *Borat*, funnyman Sacha Baron Cohen's *The Dictator* is also only slightly less obscene. Starring as the fascist despot of fictional Wadiya, Cohen's idiotic oppressor gets lost in America and develops an unlikely romance with a feminist (Anna Faris). Certainly more plot-driven than his previous pictures, *The Dictator* is also more predictable. Still, with Cohen's uncanny ability to bring hilarity to even the most offensive of characters, *The Dictator* commands you to enjoy it.

STEVE GOW

The Dictator listings
City Centre 9 Cinemas

Bargain Matinee, Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:05

Clareview 10 Cinemas

Digital Presentation Wed-Thu 5:10-8:10

North Edmonton Cinemas

No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-3:45-6:10-8:20-10:35

Scotiabank Theatre

No Passes Wed 11:40 No Passes Thu 11:40-1:50-4:15-6:15-8:30-10:45 No Passes Wed 1:50-4:15-6:15-8:30-10:45

South Edmonton Common

No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:25-9:45

Grandin Theatres

No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-3:45-5:45-7:30-9:20 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:40

Cineplex Odeon

No Passes Wed-Thu 8-10:20

While brushing his teeth, Norman pretends that he is a zombie in the children's animated feature *ParaNorman*. HANDOUT

The not-so-normal making of ParaNorman

Stop-motion technology. Elaborate, painstaking animation gives this children's monster movie a gritty but stunning feel

CAROLYN MORRIS
scene@metronews.ca

It's a story of a little boy who is bullied at school. It would be universal, except that Norman is able to see ghosts and zombies.

And the 3-D movie is shot using labour-intensive stop-motion technology. At a time when

computer-generated imagery is creating stunning and elaborate animation, the tactile quality of *ParaNorman* is refreshingly unusual.

Part comedy, part horror pastiche, *ParaNorman* (in theatres August 17) is produced by Laika, the studio that made *Coraline*, a 2009 3-D stop-motion children's film, nominated for an Academy Award for best animated feature.

ParaNorman writer and co-director Chris Butler has a soft spot for the paranormal, having grown up on *The Goonies*, *Ghostbusters* and *Scooby-Doo*.

"I think there is something thrilling to kids about monsters. As long as you're saying that there's a monster and it can be beaten. I think that's import-

ant," he says.

The directors wanted a raw, gritty animation style. And the studio focused on real-life materials to achieve it. In its puppet and set-construction departments, fine artists, jewelers, engineers, and even chemists crafted the characters and scenes.

While the movie boasts some high-profile voices — including young stars Kodi Smit-McPhee and Anna Kendrick — much of the "acting" is shared by an invisible cast of about 25 animators who work alone, manipulating the puppets on separate sets, and sometimes shooting as few as 15 or 16 frames in an entire day (less than one second of footage). On a good day, they'll shoot several seconds.

Director duo

Sam Fell and Chris Butler (writer) teamed up to co-direct this children's film.

- According to Butler, the original idea was "John Carpenter-meets-John Hughes." Carpenter directed horror classic *Halloween*, while Hughes directed *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.
- Co-director Fell compared the film's look to William Eggleston's photography of objects like junk in a gutter, or a chainlink fence.

Book-turned-movie, with a rare self-help twist

Chris Rock, left, and Rodrigo Santoro, right, in a scene from *What to Expect When You're Expecting*. HANDOUTIN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Big-screen adaptations of books are common. This year, everything from *The Lorax* to *The Hunger Games* and even *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* are making the leap from page to stage.

Less common is the reworking of self-help books for the movies. Earlier this year, *Think Like a Man*, a rom-com based on Steve Harvey's bestselling advice book, was a huge hit. Now this weekend, pregnancy guide *What to Expect When*

You're Expecting gets the all-star treatment as a comedy starring Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez and Elizabeth Banks.

Self-help guides rarely get adapted into movies because they generally lack a dramatic arc. 101 Ways to Improve Your Communication Skills Instantly, for instance, doesn't offer up much in the way of exciting drama, but some filmmakers have found ways of creating compelling stories from advice books.

In 1962, when Helen Gurley Brown's book *Sex and the Single Girl* sold two million copies in three weeks, Hollywood came calling. The book's then-controversial premise —

that women should enjoy sex in or out of wedlock — was, however, watered down into a salute to marriage, which better suited the tone of the times than the book's feminist message.

Years later, both *Sex and the City* and Renée Zellweger's sex farce *Down with Love* both looked to the book for inspiration. Not all self-help book adaptations are successful, however. One review for *Let's Go To Prison*, based on an advice book by Jim Hogshire, said, "89 minutes that drag on like, well, a prison sentence," while *He's Just Not That Into You* was likened to "reliving your 20s, minus the fun."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



The Word

Maybe Jay-Z should run for President

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

When Jay-Z went on CNN yesterday and was asked about Obama's recent public support of gay marriage, he didn't necessarily say anything groundbreaking.

We're all humans, we're wasting our time talking about this, love happens: you've heard this before.

But, that said, everything sounds so much cooler — so obviously a good idea — when it's delivered with a little Jay-Z swagger. This guy should consider running for office — or calling us:

"I've always thought it as something that was still holding the country back. What people do in their own homes is their business."

Of course it is. I bet your home is nice. It seems like it would smell really nice and have good snacks. Swoon.

"You can choose to love whoever you love."

Like you, for instance. I mean, if Beyoncé's cool with it. She's probably not. Forget this part happened.

"It's really not about votes, it's about people. Whether it costs (Obama) votes or not, I think it's the right thing to do as a human being."

We're humans! We love being human. Go humans.

The Cruise moves

We don't know what to make of the June cover of W magazine: we get that it's a joke and Tom Cruise is in character for his upcoming heavy metal musical Rock of Ages, but we suspect he thinks he looks seriously hot here.

Inside, the actor talks about where he learned his Risky Business dance moves, which he puts to good use in the new film. "I did the scene from Risky Business around the house," he tells the magazine. "I would sing Bob Seger — my mother worked, my sisters were out, and I'd turn the music up. I learned how to dance watching Soul Train. I noticed that if a guy could dance, he'd get a lot of attention and girls would want to dance with him. I worked very hard at imitating those moves."



John Travolta

Private Travolta trial set to be 'one hell of a fight'

While John Travolta's second accuser won't be facing the star in a public trial, the lawyer representing him doesn't want people to think they won't be putting up a fight. "I want a full trial with a private judge," Okorie Okoro-cha tells People magazine in

response to reports the case may be heading into mediation. "There is no mediation. There'll never be a settlement. I want privacy for sex crime victims. It looks like (Travolta's attorney Marty Singer) wants one hell of a fight."

Jessica Alba didn't always like the spotlight

While Jessica Alba is comfortable with her public image now, it wasn't always so easy, she admits — especially back in her Dark Angel days.

"I had a show that premiered when I was 19. And right away, everyone formed a strong opinion about me because of the way I was marketed. I was supposed to be sexy, this tough action girl. That's what people expected," she tells Marie Claire magazine.

"I felt like I was being

objectified, and it made me uncomfortable. I wanted to be chic and elegant!"



Jessica Alba

Charlize Theron over the moon about becoming a mom

Charlize Theron admits that everything in her life has changed since adopting a baby boy, Jackson, in March.

"It's strangely everything that you've hoped for and it feels so right.

I don't know how else to say it," Theron tells E! News.

"I feel like I can't remember anything prior to him. I feel like it was always just meant to be what it is."



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LIFE

Travel in brief

Skrillex to lead train tour

Grammy-winning dub-step DJ Skrillex will be exploring a different kind of track this summer as he leads a group of electronic artists on a tour through Canada on a private passenger train. The tour will also feature performances by buzzy Montreal artist Grimes, Philadelphia DJ Diplo and Colorado's Pretty Lights. The cross-country trek will kick off on July 13 in Toronto with stops in Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. The idea was inspired in part by the famous Festival Express tour in the '70s, which saw the likes of Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead and the Band traverse a similar route across the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web



New photo exhibition reveals the early days of Bono and U2, documenting the band's gritty origins in 1970s Dublin

Want a beach vacation but can't stand the thought of staying at a mega-resort? In Mexico, you don't have to. Getting Canadians away from crowded beaches and watered-down fruity drinks is Sylvie Laitre's specialty. The director of Mexico Boutique Hotels lives in Puerto Vallarta and has spent 15 years travelling the country looking for hidden gems that offer privacy and tranquility. Here are her Top 5 picks:

DAWN CUTHBERTSON
life@metronews.ca



Casa de Mita

Location: Punta de Mita, a 45-minute drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: With just eight rooms on the property, guests who visit this all-inclusive beachfront property rave about the chef's creations and attentive staff. Each room has a private balcony facing the Pacific Ocean and there are endless activities to enjoy, from getting a massage to playing a round of golf.

Price: \$565-\$895 per night.

Travel tip: This adults-only resort is so popular it has repeat guests, so book early.



Playa Escondida

Location: Sayulita, a one-hour drive from the Puerto Vallarta airport.

Description: Peaceful, quirky and secluded. Those are the words most people who've stayed here use to describe the resort — almost all also include 'amazing'. Lush with vegetation, this property caters to adventurous Canadians who like the idea of staying in the jungle and having spectacular beach and ocean views.

Price: \$150-\$400 per night.

Travel tip: The showers for some rooms are outside, but still private, and most people say it just adds to the charm of the property.

5

top boutique hotels in Mexico



Capella Ixtapa

Location: A 20-minute drive from the Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo airport.

Description: Nestled on the side of a rocky cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, this 59-suite property is known for its stunning architecture. Guests love that there's a private plunge pool in every room. Trip Advisor reviewers rank it number one out of 25 hotels in Ixtapa.

Price: \$275-1,350 per night

Travel tip: This property does not have a beach to laze on all day, but there are two pools, including one that's salt-water.



Villas Flamingos

Location: Isla Holbox, about three hours north of the Cancun airport.

Description: This funky eco-friendly resort is the exact antithesis of the debauchery that goes on in Cancun. A property that caters to families and couples, guests can stay in suites, a bungalow or rent the island's only beach house. The laid-back atmosphere encourages relaxation and you can walk almost anywhere barefoot.

Price: \$107-\$497 per night. Includes breakfast for two.

Travel tip: This property is one of a few in the world that can take you swimming with whale sharks.



Viceroy Riviera Maya

Location: Playa Xcalacoco, about 20 minutes from Playa del Carmen. Fly into Cancun.

Description: Popular among honeymooners and couples, this property is luxurious, romantic and the perfect place to celebrate a major milestone. Guests rave about the spa, where you can get an ancient Mayan massage or a body treatment where hibiscus flowers are used to encourage radiance and energy back into your skin.

Price: \$605-\$2,720 per night.

Travel Tip: Most reviewers on Trip Advisor find the food and wine to be expensive. Be prepared to splurge.



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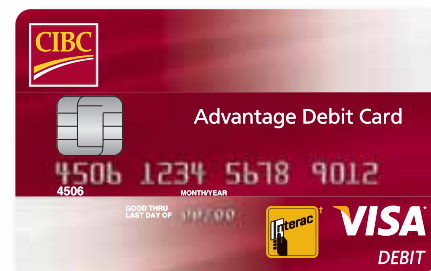
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Jamie Oliver wants you

On May 19, the famous British chef asks you to join his healthy-eating crusade, a.k.a. Food Revolution Day 'I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza. I'm anti-shit food,' he says

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Chef Jamie Oliver has devoted his career to fighting unhealthy eating — and you can see why: Global obesity has more than doubled since 1980. Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

On Saturday May 19, the British TV star launches his latest effort, Food Revolution Day, a global campaign that asks you to think about eating right: host a food event serving organic foods, or a locally-sourced dinner party, or start a campaign at work or school.

Check out foodrevolution-day.com for more ideas and events in your city.

Here's Oliver on why you should join the movement:

The obesity crisis: How did we end up here?

The main issue is the Western diet: it's single-handedly more responsible for damage to global health than anything else. In so many Western countries, we have three generations of people

who were never taught how to cook at home.

Both parents were at work, food education at school is so shit, they can't learn there. I've been in houses where kids only hydrate on fizzy drinks and show no interest in tap water. And technology, freezing techniques and processed foods have only made things worse.

Will the world ever get healthy again?

I actually think that multinationals and fast-food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they would do a better job than any other government or individ-

ual. If you thought the oil and petrol industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level. The problem is the corruption between food industries and governments.

We need to address smaller issues like chicken farming or pink slime. Stop these products from ever being registered. How f—ing dare they?

And how will the Food Revolution Day help?

I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti-shit food. With Food Revolution Day, I'm trying to get as many people as possible to stir the pot.

We all need to become a little fussier about what we put in our gobs [mouths]. When you put something in your mouth, it's a very personal thing that affects you straight away.

You've already tried to change

Global obesity epidemic

2.8M

Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

North American food habits once. What makes you think that they will listen to you this time?

I expect nothing. People may not want me around but I don't think I've ever wasted my time. I don't give a shit if people think I'm crazy.

North America is difficult, as it's where a lot of the unhealthy foods and brands are created. It's the eye of the storm. Most countries eventually follow their trends, whether they like it or not.

Ultimately, though, do you think most Americans would rather go to McDonald's than go to the gym?

Things need to change otherwise the whole country will come to a standstill. People won't be mobile. It's a question of national security.

How can you train an army if the nation is obese? Progress will happen. They have no choice.



We would eat anything this man served us. DAVID LOFTUS

Full of bright veggies, this healthy chili is worth the chopping

This is a lovely alternative to traditional chili con carne. It's packed with good stuff so is a great choice for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike.

To prepare the chili:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F.
2. Peel the sweet potatoes and cut into bite-sized chunks. Sprinkle with a pinch each of cayenne, cumin and cinnamon, drizzle with olive oil and scatter with a pinch of salt and pepper. Toss to coat then put them on a baking tray.
3. Peel and roughly chop the onion. Halve, de-seed and roughly chop the peppers. Pick the coriander leaves and put aside, finely chop the stalks. De-seed and finely chop the chilies. Peel and finely chop the garlic.

To cook your chili:

4. Put the tray of sweet potato in the hot oven to cook for 40 minutes until soft and golden.

5. Put a large pan on a medium-high

heat and add a couple lugs of olive oil. Add the onion, peppers and garlic and cook for 5 minutes. Add the coriander stalks, chili and spices and cook for another 5 to 10 minutes, stirring every couple of minutes.

6. Drain the cans of beans, then tip them into the pan with the tinned tomatoes. Stir well and bring to the boil, then reduce to a medium-low heat and leave to tick away for 25 to 30 minutes. Keep an eye on it, and add a splash of water if it gets a bit thick.

To serve your chili:

7. Get the roasted sweet potato out of the oven and stir it through your chili with most of the coriander leaves. Taste and season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed.

8. Scatter the remaining leaves over the top, and serve with some sour cream, guacamole and rice or tortillas.

JAMIEOLIVER.COM/JAMIES-MINISTRY-OF-FOOD



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www.edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup
Report Graffiti Vandalism. Call 311.



Jamie Oliver's Vegetarian Chili is a bowl of savoury goodness. MATT RUSSELL

Ingredients

What you'll need:

- 2 medium-sized sweet potatoes. (around 500g)
- 1 level teaspoon cayenne pepper. Plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 heaped teaspoon ground cumin. (Plus extra for sprinkling)
- 1 level teaspoon ground cinnamon. (Plus extra for sprinkling)
- Olive oil
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 yellow pepper
- A bunch of fresh coriander
- 1 red chili
- 1 green chili
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 yellow pepper
- 2 x 400g tins beans. Try kidney, chickpea, pinto, cannellini
- 2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes

The new bilingualism: computer-speak

TalentEgg. Sometimes getting that job means knowing how the speak the language — even HTML

LAUREN STEIN
talentegg.ca

Earlier this year, I learned that I was shortlisted for a job alongside one other candidate.

I'd submitted a portfolio, interviewed with my potential supervisor, wrote a set of sample pieces, and was (obviously) really eager to learn whether or not I'd be making the cut.

Lucky for me, I had an inside source to scoop who my competition was and why we were the two left standing. What I wasn't expecting was to discover that

our strengths and weaknesses both had to do with our proficiency with language: the other candidate's written French was much more polished than mine, but I'd demonstrated my understanding of HTML and CSS.

Fast-forwarding a tad, you should know that neither of us got the job as the company underwent a bit of a hiring freeze (it happens). But I was still intrigued by my competition's lack of knowledge of markup languages. How is it, considering how prevalent the Internet and technology are in most fields nowadays, that some still don't know how to code?

Sure, it's as easy now as it ever was to fully customize your Tumblr, Blogger or Twitter page with a simple click or drag and drop. A decade ago, we were doing it with GeoCities and LiveJournal. Except it gets tiresome seeing the same layout over



Being proficient with computer languages is one trait many employers are looking for. iStock

and over again — with all the blogs and personal websites out there, standing out is key. In this day and age,

design is important.

LAUREN STEIN IS A RECENT GRADUATE OF THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY. TALENT-

EGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Online resources

The Internet is crawling with resources for beginner code-monkeys.

- **Back to basics.** The first site I ever looked to for HTML how-to was Lissa Explains. Don't let the eye-popping fluorescent-themed colour scheme fool you — it's extremely useful. If you've never encountered anything code-related before, this site is fantastic because it's meant for kids.
- **Instant gratification.** It works lesson-by-lesson and when you understand key concepts, it gives you badges and points. Sounds kind of fun, no?
- **The experts.** Mozilla, the fine folks behind Firefox, have created the Mozilla Developer Network, a hub that's full of tools and articles on web development. There's also a lot more than just HTML and CSS.

What's wanted when the posting says social media

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU
talentegg.ca

Just a few years ago, my job didn't even exist. Now, some 79 per cent of corporations have jumped on the bandwagon, hiring social-media and community managers to drive their online efforts. The growth is astounding and it's a role that's here to stay.

But what are employers looking for when hiring someone to fill this role? Hint: they're not looking for someone who can stare at their Face-

book feed all day.

Adaptability and versatility

Online and social media is one of the most — if not the most — fast-paced and booming industries. New technologies and tools emerge and fall everyday. Social media and community managers must be quick to adapt to new trends and understand how to apply them to a company's advantage.

More than that, they often have to be comfortable wearing different hats and juggling different skills. You must be a researcher, a communicator, a

writer, an event-planner ... all at the same time.

Solid communication skills

Well, this is a bit obvious. After all, a career in social media is ultimately a career in communications. But I can't stress enough how essential writing and verbal skills are. Social media come in different forms — blog posts, videos, Twitter, you name it ... and you need to be the Jack (or Jill) of all communication trades.

Flexibility & constant connection
Conversations don't stop the

minute you walk out of the office. The thing about the online world is that it operates 24/7 and conversations will happen with or without you. Your hours will be a little different from the usual nine-to-five grind because people are always talking, tweeting, uploading videos and photos, and updating their Facebook status. Digital does not stop.

Enthusiasm, energy & passion

You are the online voice and face for the company. You need to exude passion for whatever product or service you

are representing. You need to understand the industry lingo, empathize with the company's community, and just straight-up live and breathe that brand. Being the resident evangelist for an organization/cause/brand that you do believe in is a great feeling. Just remember, passion is never overrated and it sure as hell can't be forced.

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU IS A COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL BY DAY AND A FREELANCE WRITER BY NIGHT. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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4

SPORTS

Quoted

"You're going to go down! You're going to go down! You're going to go down!"

Brian McNamee, Roger Clemens' former strength coach, told Clemens' perjury trial that that's what his wife, Eileen, said in the "middle of a battle royale" argument. His wife worried McNamee would become the fall guy in the Clemens affair, McNamee testified. Clemens, the former baseball great, is accused of lying when he told Congress in 2008 that he had never used steroids or GHG.

On the web



The Staples Center in Los Angeles will easily be the busiest building in pro sports later this week as it hosts six playoff games in four days. Scan the code to find out how officials plan to solve the Kings, Lakers, Clippers puzzle.



Goaltender Jonathan Quick defends his net as his Kings teammate Slave Voynov tracks Phoenix's Martin Hanzal on Tuesday in Glendale, Ariz.
CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Kings on the Quick road to cup finals

NHL. Los Angeles dominant again in Phoenix

Jeff Carter scored three goals, Jonathan Quick stopped 24 shots and the Los Angeles Kings matched an NHL record with their seventh straight road playoff victory, beating the Phoenix Coyotes 4-0 Tuesday night to take control of Western Conference final.

Los Angeles dominated the opener and was even better in Game 2, withstanding Phoenix's initial push and string of penalties for a 2-0 series lead.

Dwight King scored his third goal in two games and

Quick tied a team record with his third career playoff shutout to give the Kings a dominating lead heading into Game 3 Thursday night in Los Angeles.

The Kings have won nine straight road playoff games in two seasons, matching the NHL record set by the New York Islanders from 1982-83.

The Islanders won the Stanley Cup both of those years.

Quick matched Felix Potvin's team record for playoff shutouts and Carter finished off his first career playoff hat trick in the third period, securing the Kings' seventh straight win overall.

The Coyotes played better early and fell apart late, becoming frustrated after

Game 2

4

Kings

0

Coyotes

being unable to contain the more-skilled Kings.

Phoenix was hit with a string of penalties starting late in the second period, including a game misconduct to captain Shane Doan for boarding Kings centre Trevor Lewis. Martin Hanzal also received one for boarding Dustin Brown in the third period and the Coyotes had 13 penalties for 56 minutes — most coming after

the final five minutes of the second period.

The Kings won the opener 4-2 by outplaying and out-hustling Phoenix.

Knowing Phoenix's makeup, the Kings figured to get more of a pushback in Game 2.

And the Coyotes were much more aggressive early, winning some of the individual battles they lost in Game 1 while creating some decent scoring chances.

Even with all of Phoenix's hard work and a couple of line changes by coach Dave Tippett, the Kings still managed to score first. King got it, redirecting a shot by Drew Doughty that beat Mike Smith stick side late in the period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Pacers steal one in Miami

David West scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, George Hill added 15 and the Indiana Pacers took home-court advantage away from Miami by beating the Heat, 78-75, in Game 2 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series Tuesday night.

LeBron James scored 28 points for Miami and Dwyane Wade finished with 24, but both missed big chances for the Heat late. James missed two free throws with 54.3 seconds left and Miami down one, and Wade was short on a layup that would have tied the game with 16 seconds remaining.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cycling

Hesjedal loses lead at Giro

Spanish rider Joaquin Rodriguez took the overall lead in the Giro d'Italia from Canadian Ryder Hesjedal on Tuesday after winning the 10th stage in a sprint finish.

Hesjedal was only six seconds behind in sixth place, but Rodriguez moved ahead of him thanks to a 20-second time bonus for the stage victory.

"Hats off to Purito," Hesjedal said in an email to The Canadian Press, referring to Rodriguez' nickname. "His team was incredibly strong and they took the initiative riding all day." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Joaquin Rodriguez gets a kiss after the 10 stage on Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION		W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	23	14	.622	—	
Tampa Bay	23	14	.622	—	
New York	20	16	.556	2½	
Toronto	19	18	.514	4	
Boston	17	19	.472	5½	

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	20	16	.556	—
Detroit	18	18	.500	2
Chicago	17	20	.459	3½
Kansas City	15	20	.429	4½
Minnesota	10	26	.278	10

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	23	14	.622	—
Oakland	19	18	.514	4
Los Angeles	16	21	.432	7
Seattle	16	22	.421	7½

Yesterday's results

Tampa Bay 4 **Toronto** 3

Baltimore 5 N.Y. Yankees 2

L.A. Angels 4 Oakland 0

Cleveland 5 Minnesota 0

Detroit 10 Chicago White Sox 8

Boston 5 Seattle 0

Kansas City 7 Texas 4

Monday's results

Tampa Bay 7 **Toronto** 1

Chicago White Sox 7 Detroit 5

Oakland 5 L.A. Angels 0

Kansas City 3 Texas 1

N.Y. Yankees 8 Baltimore 5

Boston 6 Seattle 1

Cleveland 5 Minnesota 4

Tonight's games

All times Eastern

Minnesota (Blackburn 1-4) at Detroit (Porcello 3-3), 7:05 p.m.

Seattle (F.Hernandez 3-2) at Cleveland (Jimenez 3-3), 7:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 3-4) at **Toronto** (Drabek 2-4), 7:07 p.m.

Boston (Buchholz 4-1) at Tampa Bay (Hellickson 3-0), 7:10 p.m.

Oakland (Milone 5-2) at Texas (Darvish 5-1), 8:05 p.m.

Baltimore (Tom.Hunter 2-2) at Kansas City (F.Paulino 1-1), 8:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Floyd 3-3) at L.A. Angels (Williams 3-1), 10:05 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Seattle at Cleveland, 12:05 p.m.

Minnesota at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.

Oakland at Texas, 2:05 p.m.

Baltimore at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels, 3:35 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees at **Toronto**, 7:07 p.m.

Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.

AL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Hamilton Tex	33	130	30	52	.400
Jeter NYY	35	150	24	55	.367
Ortiz Bos	35	136	25	47	.346
Konerko CWS	36	131	19	45	.344
Sweeney Bos	30	111	10	37	.333
Andrus Tex	35	141	24	46	.326
AJackson Det	35	133	27	43	.323
ACabrera Cle	30	119	20	38	.319
Pedroia Bos	35	147	26	46	.313
McCabera Det	36	146	19	45	.308

RBI—Hamilton, Texas, 44; McCabera, Det, 31; Encarnacion, Toronto, 29; ADunn, Chi, 28.

Runs—Kinsler, Tex, 23; Hamilton, Tex, 30; De Aza, Chi, 27; AJackson, Det, 27; AdJones, Bal, 27.

Yesterday's games not included

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION		W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	23	14	.622	—	
Washington	22	14	.611	½	
New York	20	16	.556	2½	
Miami	19	17	.528	3½	
Philadelphia	18	19	.486	5	

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	21	15	.583	—
Cincinnati	18	17	.514	2½
Pittsburgh	17	19	.472	4
Milwaukee	16	20	.444	5
Chicago	15	21	.417	6
Houston	15	21	.417	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	24	11	.686	—
San Francisco	18	17	.514	6
Arizona	15	21	.417	9½
Colorado	13	21	.382	10½
San Diego	13	24	.351	12

Yesterday's results

Miami 6 Pittsburgh 2

St. Louis 7 Chicago Cubs 6

San Diego 6 Washington 1

Philadelphia 4 Houston 3 (10 inn.)

Atlanta 6 Cincinnati 2

Milwaukee 8 N.Y. Mets 0

Arizona at L.A. Dodgers

Colorado at San Francisco

Monday's results

San Francisco 3 Colorado 2

Cincinnati 3 Atlanta 1

Philadelphia 5 Houston 1

Washington 8 San Diego 5

N.Y. Mets 3 Milwaukee 1

Chicago Cubs 6 St. Louis 4

Pittsburgh 3 Miami 2

L.A. Dodgers 3 Arizona 1

Tonight's games

All times Eastern

L.A. Dodgers (Capuano 5-0) at San Diego (Richard 1-5), 6:35 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Bedard 2-4) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 4-1), 7:05 p.m.

Cincinnati (Leake 0-5) at N.Y. Mets (J.Santana 1-2), 7:10 p.m.

Miami (Buehrle 2-4) at Atlanta (Minor 2-2), 7:10 p.m.

Milwaukee (Wolf 2-3) at Houston (Norris 3-1), 8:05 p.m.

Philadelphia (K.Kendrick 0-3) at Chicago Cubs (Garza 2-1), 8:05 p.m.

Arizona (Corbin 2-1) at Colorado (Moyer 1-3), 8:40 p.m.

St. Louis (J.Garcia 2-2) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 5-2), 10:15 p.m.

Tomorrow's games

Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.

Arizona at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.

St. Louis at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Washington, 7:05 p.m.

Miami at Atlanta, 7:10 p.m.

Milwaukee at Houston, 8:05 p.m.

Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
DWright NYM	32	118	25	47	.398
Furcal STL	35	142	26	51	.359
Kemp LAD	34	117	29	42	.359
LaHair CHC	33	108	17	38	.352
Jay STL	27	105	18	36	.343
McCutchen Pit	32	118	19	40	.339
McCabera SF	35	145	21	49	.338
Ruiz Phi	33	104	16	35	.337
DanMurphy NYM	35	141	13	47	.333
Bourn Atl	36	157	25	52	.331

Yesterday's games not included

RAYS 4, BLUE JAYS 3

Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi
Zobrist rf	5	0	3	1
Blpton cf	4	0	1	0
Joyce lf	4	0	2	0
CPena 1b	4	0	1	0
Scott dh	4	0	0	0
SRodríguez 3b	4	1	1	1
Rhymz 2b	4	2	2	0
JMolin c	4	1	0	0
EJhnson ss	4	0	2	0
RDavis lf	3	1	2	0
Totals	37	4	12	2

Tampa Bay

000	010	300	—4
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Toronto

003	000	000	—3
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E—J.Molina (2), E.Johnson (2), R.Davis (2), Y.Escobar (6), Lawrie (6), H.Alvarez (2). DP—Toronto 2. LOB—Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 4. 2B—Zobrist 2 (9), R.Davis (3). HR—S.Rodriguez (3), Encarnacion (12). SB—Lawrie (5), R.Davis (6). CS—E.Johnson (2).

Tampa Bay

Price W,6-2	7	6	3	0	0	6
Jo.Peralta H,8-2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rodney S,11-11	1	0	0	0	0	2

Toronto

H.Alvarez L,3-3	6	2	3	10	4	2	0	1
Oliver	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	
Fliszar	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Janssen	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	

HBP—by Price (Lawrie). WHP—H.Alvarez. T—2:36. A—15,612 (49,260).

TENNIS

ATP-WTA

ITALIAN OPEN

At Rome

Men's Singles — First Round

Juan Martin Del Potro (10), Argentina, def. Michael Llodra, France, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Gilles Simon (11), France, def. Donald Young, U.S., 6-2, 7-5.

Ruan Monaco (14), Argentina, def. Adrian Ungur, Romania, 6-2, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Feliciano Lopez (15), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.

Richard Gasquet (16), France, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-1, 7-6 (6).

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, 6-4, 6-1.

Sam Querrey, U.S., def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4.

Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Women's Singles — Second Round

Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Bernard Tomic, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.

Andy Murray (4), Britain, def. David Nalbandian, Argentina, 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (5), France, def. Viktor Troicki, Serbia, 6-3, 6-2.

Juan Carlos Ferrero, Spain, def. Gael Monfils (13), France, 7-5, 6-3.

David Ferrer, Spain, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Women's Singles — First Round

Serena Williams (9), U.S., def. Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 6-3.

Marina Erakovic, New Zealand, def. Sabine Lisicki (11), Germany, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3.

Dominika Cibulkova (14), Slovakia, def. Mirjana Lucic, Croatia, 6-1, 6-2.

Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Jelena Jankovic (15), Serbia, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (4).

Flavia Pennetta, Italy, def. Maria Kirilenko (16), Russia, 6-1, 7-6 (2).

Silvia Soler-Espinosa, Spain, def. Alberta Brianti, Italy, 6-2, 6-1.

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP

CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. NEW JERSEY (6)

(New York leads 1-0)

Monday's result

N.Y. Rangers 3 New Jersey 0

Tonight's game

New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

Saturday's game

N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 1 p.m.

Monday, May 21

N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23

x-New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

Friday, May 25

x-N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 27

x-New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PHOENIX (3) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)

(Los Angeles leads 2-0)

Last night's result

Los Angeles 4 Phoenix 0

Tomorrow's game

Phoenix at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.

Sunday's game

Phoenix at Los Angeles, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

x-Los Angeles at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Thursday, May 24

x-Phoenix at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 26

x-Los Angeles at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

x — if necessary.

KINGS 4, COYOTES 0

First Period

1. Los Angeles, King 4 (Doughty, Lewis) 13:15

Penalties — Whitney Pho (hooking) 8:53, Gordon Pho (tripping) 14:30, Penner LA (tripping) 17:44.

Second Period

2. Los Angeles, Carter 2 (Penner, Richards) 4:47

3. Los Angeles, Carter 3 (Kopitar, Williams) 18:49 (pp)

Penalties — Clifford LA (holding stick) 9:18, Yandle Pho (roughing) 14:57, Langkow Pho (slashing), Doan Pho (boarding major, game misconduct; served by Brule) 16:29, Brown LA (diving), Smith Pho (slashing; served by Korpikoski) 18:00.

Third Period

4. Los Angeles, Carter 4 (Brown, Kopitar) 12:56 (pp)

Penalties — King LA (goaltender interference) 3:34, Lewis LA (tripping) 6:07, Hanzal Pho (boarding major, game misconduct; served by Brule) 11:01, Morris Pho (kneeing) 12:43, Penner LA (double roughing, misconduct), Vermette Pho (roughing, misconduct), Ekman-Larsson Pho (roughing) 13:18.

Shots on goal

Los Angeles 15 17 8 40

Phoenix 8 8 8 24

Goal — Los Angeles: Quick (W,10-1-0); Phoenix: Smith (L,8-5-0). Power plays (goals-chances) — Los Angeles: 2-8; Phoenix: 0-4. Att. — 17,149 (17,135) at Glendale, Ariz.

LACROSSE

NLL PLAYOFFS

CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday's game

CHAMPIONS CUP

Edmonton at Rochester, 7:30 p.m., EST

HOCKEY

IIHF MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Helsinki and Stockholm

PRELIMINARY ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	OW	OL	L	GF	GA	Pt
x-Canada	7	6	0	1	0	35	15	19
x-U.S.	7	4	2	0	1	32	17	16
x-Finland	7	5	0	0	2	21	14	15
x-Slovakia	7	5	0	0	2	21	13	15
France	7	3	0	0	4	21	32	9
Switzerland	7	2	0	0	5	16	21	6
Belarus	7	1	0	0	6	11	23	3
Kazakhstan	7	0	0	1	6	11	33	1

GROUP B

	GP	W	OW	OL	L	GF	GA	Pt
x-Russia	7	7	0	0	0	27	8	21
x-Sweden	7	6	0	0	1	30	15	18
x-Czech Rep.	7	4	1	0	2	24	11	14
x-Norway	7	4	0	1	2	33	19	13
Latvia	7	2	0	0	5	11	20	6
Germany	7	2	0	0	5	14	31	6
Denmark	7	1	0	1	5	13	23	4
Italy	7	0	1	0	6	6	31	2

x — clinched berth in championship playoffs.

Note: 3 points for a regulation win, 2 for an overtime win and 1 for an overtime loss.

Yesterday's results

At Helsinki

Canada 5 Belarus 1

Slovakia 5 France 4

U.S. 5 Switzerland 2

At Stockholm

Czech Republic 8 Germany 1

Norway 6 Denmark 2

Sweden 5 Latvia 0

END OF PRELIMINARY ROUND

Monday's results

At Helsinki

France 2 Belarus 1

Finland 4 Kazakhstan 1

At Stockholm

Denmark 2 Latvia 0

Russia 4 Italy 0

PLAYOFFS

Tomorrow's game

QUARTER-FINALS

At Helsinki

Canada vs. Slovakia, 6 a.m., EDT

CANADA 5, BELARUS 1

At Helsinki, Finland

First Period

1. Canada, O'Reilly 1 (Ladd, Keith) 2:16

2. Belarus, S. Kostitsyn (Kovyrshin, A. Kostitsyn) 14:25

Penalty — Korobov Bel (holding) 14:40.

Second Period

3. Canada, Perry 3 (Getzlaf, Keith) 9:10 (pp)

4. Canada, Getzlaf 2 (Kane, Perry) 12:46

5. Canada, Nugent-Hopkins 4 (Tavares, Sharp) 14:11 (pp)

Penalties — Drozd Bel (tripping) 6:38; Kalyuzhny Bel (hooking) 7:22; A. Kostitsyn (boarding, game misconduct) 13:32; Tavares Can (double roughing), Stas Bel (roughing), Stasenko Bel (10-minute misconduct) 14:11; Koltsov Bel (delay of game) 17:03; Burrows Can (tripping) 19:26.

Third Period

6. Canada, O'Reilly 2 (Ladd) 8:16

Penalties — Kane Can (roughing) 13:58; Schenn Can (boarding, game misconduct) 16:14; Methot Can (boarding, game misconduct) 19:53.

Shots on goal

Belarus 6 5 7 —18

Canada 9 13 6 —28

Goal — Belarus: Milchakov (L,0-2-0); Canada: Ward (W,4-0-1). Power plays (goals-chances) — Belarus: 0-5; Canada: 2-5.

Attendance — 9,140 at Helsinki.

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)

All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE

MIAMI (2) VS. INDIANA (3)

(Series tied 1-1)

Last night's result

Indiana 78 Miami 75

Tomorrow's game

Miami at Indiana, 7 p.m.

Sunday's game

Miami at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.

BOSTON (4) VS. PHILADELPHIA (8)

(Series tied 1-1)

Monday's result

Philadelphia 82 Boston 81

Tonight's game

Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Friday's game

Boston at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SAN ANTONIO (1) VS. L.A. CLIPPERS (5)

(San Antonio leads 1-0)

Last night's result

San Antonio 108 L.A. Clippers 92

Tomorrow's game

L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

OKLAHOMA CITY (2) VS. L.A. LAKERS (3)

(Oklahoma City leads 1-0)

Monday's result

Oklahoma City 119 L.A. Lakers 90

Tonight's game

L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City 9:30 p.m.

Saturday's game

San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
New York	11	7	3	1	23	16	22
Kansas City	10	7	3	0	13	7	21
D.C.	12	5	4	3	20	16	18
Chicago	9	4	2	3	11	10	15
Houston	9	3	3	3	8	9	12
New England	10	4	6	0	12	13	12
Montreal	11	3	5	3	12	16	12
Columbus	9	3	4	2	8	11	11
Philadelphia	9	2	6	1	7	12	7
Toronto	8	0	8	0	6	18	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Salt Lake	11	7	3	1	23	16	22
San Jose	11	7	2	2	22	12	23
Seattle	10	7	2	1	13	4	22
Vancouver	10	5	3	2	10	11	17
Colorado	10	5	5	0	15	12	15
Dallas	12	3	6	3	11	18	12
Los Angeles	10	3	5	2	12	15	11
Chivas USA	10	3	6	1	6	12	10
Portland	10	2	5	3	9	13	9

Last night's result

Portland 0 Houston 0

Tonight's game

All times Eastern

Colorado at D.C., 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's games

Seattle at Vancouver, 5 p.m.

Houston at New England, 7:30 p.m.

Toronto at D.C., 7:30 p.m.

New York at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Kansas City at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Columbus at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Los Angeles at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's game

Chicago at Portland, 7 p.m.

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'Intelligent' AWD

The Escape's new "Intelligent" all-wheel-drive system is available on both turbocharged models. According to Ford, it continually assesses road conditions and driver inputs "about 20 times faster than the blink of an eye" and can shift up to 100 per cent of the available power to either the front or rear wheels for maximum grip.

Curve Control

The Escape is the first Ford to incorporate Torque Vectoring Control and Curve Control. The idea is to distribute the correct amount of power to each wheel when cornering so that the vehicle sticks to the intended path. A display screen keeps you informed as to where the power is being directed.

2013 Ford Escape

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive compact tall wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (168); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (173); 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (237).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** \$23,000.

Engines



The only transmission available on the Escape is a six-speed automatic.

Ford has advanced power-plant choices and has done so without resorting to a V6 option. Base front-wheel-drive models run with a 168-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder, while front- and all-wheel-drive SE and SEL designations use a 173-horsepower 1.6-litre turbocharged "EcoBoost" four-cylinder.

Review. After 12 years, you had to know Ford's change was going to be huge

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

For the past 12 seasons, the Ford Escape has proven a

popular choice with buyers of entry-priced wagons. In car terms, 12 years is a lifetime — or two lifetimes, even — so the arrival of a successor to one of the company's top sellers is way overdue.

With an impressive sales history on its side, it's important that the Blue Oval automaker get it right with the soon-to-arrive 2013 Escape.

According to Ford's own statistics, the Escape and its

ilk are exactly the type of conveyance that many folks are contemplating for their next vehicle purchase.

Accordingly, the new Escape presents a clean-sheet design-and-content approach to satisfy the needs of multi-continent customers (it's called the Kuga in Europe and elsewhere).

The sleeker look is radically different from the outgoing Escape's boxiness,

which would otherwise mean a reduction in interior room. But with slightly larger dimensions overall, including an extra seven centimetres between the front and rear wheels, the result is greater rear-seat room plus slightly more passenger and cargo volume with the back seat in place or folded flat.

The Escape's "world-car" approach should play well in North America where most

vehicles in its class look more like tall passenger cars.

Given the highly competitive small utility category with the likes of the Hyundai Tucson, Mazda CX-5 and Kia Sportage, the Escape's advanced mechanicals and handsome looks should keep it relevant for at least another dozen years.

And with a \$23,000 base price, it's new style and technology that's affordable.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Go fetch it

Here's an item that all pickup-truck owners — or owners of full-size sport utility vehicles for that matter — should keep with them at all times. Having the lightweight aluminum EZ-Retriever II from Agri-Cover Inc. on hand allows you to reach those items that, whether intentionally or not, are positioned at the far end of the bed. Instead of climbing into the box (made all the worse if you have a tonneau cover), the 150-centimetre-long extendible device allows you to snag those hard-to-reach items and drag them to the gate. And by reversing the process, you can push loads to the back of the bed from the tailgate. Pick one up for \$20 US from ezretriever2.com. **WHEELBASE**

On the Web



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The Porsche Cayenne S Hybrid.

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Top Gear



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Top Gear



Keep it steady

If you own a motorcycle, you've likely had occasion to transport it by trailer or in the bed of a pickup. In any event, you were likely concerned about the bike somehow tipping over. To move your ride safely and securely, consider the Motorcycle Wheel Chock that's a new product from Steadymate. The company, which specializes in marketing a variety of tie-down accessories, has designed the Wheel Chock so that it can be securely bolted to the floor using the hardware that's included. Or, you can set it up in your garage by attaching the rubber feet (also included). Fits wheel sizes from 12-26 inches in diameter. The Wheel Chock sells for about \$230 US and can be ordered from the manufacturer at steadymate.com. **WHEELBASE**



The man in the (side-view) mirror

IndyCar driver Dario Franchitti of Scotland sits in his car earlier this week as he prepares to practice for the Indianapolis 500. DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AJAC Eco-Run proves saving fuel starts with the driver

Mileage. Event also shows why it's important to choose a vehicle best suited to the majority of your driving

JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Fuel economy is an important issue these days, especially whenever gas prices spike. You might be tempted to trade in your older vehicle for one that

gets better mileage, but even that won't make a huge difference unless you also change your driving habits.

That was the idea behind the Eco-Run, presented by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) last week. Over three days, auto writers drove 22 cars with fuel-saving technology from Brighton to London, Ont., to compare how they did against the published fuel figures for each.

The cars including all-electrics, hybrids and extended-range vehicles; one with a diesel engine; and gasoline-powered cars that incorporate such things as optimized engines, lightweight construc-

tion, improved aerodynamics and start-stop technology that shuts off the engine when you're stopped at a light.

The models ranged from a two-seater Smart, to a Mercedes-Benz AMG and even a Porsche. On our first leg of the journey, we tried to keep our feet light on the throttles.

A representative from Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) reported that of the 14 vehicles whose numbers could immediately be crunched, 70 per cent came in meeting or beating their official fuel figures.

We then got a pep talk that included five driving tips from NRCAN's AutoSmart program: accelerate gently, maintain a

steady speed, anticipate traffic, coast to decelerate, and avoid high speeds.

On the second leg, we were up to 80 per cent — and that included my achieving a mere 6.8 L/100 km in the Porsche Panamera Hybrid, mostly by sticking to the highway speed limit. By the end of the event, we were up to 100 per cent.

The event also outlined the importance of choosing a vehicle best suited to the majority of your driving.

Electric cars are viable transportation — they're certainly not just oversized golf carts — but they're primarily for commuters who travel a daily distance that's within their range.



The Smart Electric Drive and Toyota Prius Plug-In Hybrid get charged up at the AJAC Eco-Run. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

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TODD
D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

"Look, Mom — no hands ... no hands, no feet. This is some of the best driving I have ever done!"

This was the animated reaction on a YouTube video of Steve Mahan sitting behind the wheel of his Toyota Prius, making a routine cruise through the Taco Bell drive-thru, then onto a quick pickup at the dry cleaners, and back home.

Rather mundane journey, right? Hardly.

See, Mahan is 95 per cent blind and the Prius he was 'driving' is part of technology giant Google's 10-car fleet of autonomous vehicles.

Mahan wasn't actually the driver. He was a passenger in the driver's seat, while the high-tech car safely navigated his trip and provided Mahan with a level of freedom he hasn't enjoyed in years.

"There are some places you cannot go. There are some things you cannot do," Mahan said of his vision limitations. "Where this (technology) would change my life is to give me the independence and the flexibility to go to the places I both want to go, and need to go."

The era of fully autonomous vehicles filling worldwide roadways remains a long way off, but maybe not as far away as we might suspect. Google drew headlines in late April when it used the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) World Congress event in Detroit, Mich., to woo top automakers into partnerships for developing and manufacturing autonomous vehicles.

"All options are open," said Anthony Levandowski, the SAE

keynote speaker and product manager for Google's self-driving vehicle project.

"From giving the technology away, to licensing it, to working with (suppliers), working with (automakers), building a car with them — everything is open and we're trying to figure out which paths make the most sense."

Not unlike the navigation systems on an aircraft, autonomous vehicles use an intricate computer network of sensors, lasers, cameras, maps and GPS to navigate the roadways without driver assistance.

From braking and parking, to speeding and swerving, some of these sophisticated "active safety" features already are available on many vehicles.

Ford offers a parking assistance option on several of its models that use sensors at the front and rear of the car for hands-free parallel parking.

BMW and Porsche, to name just two, have their "active" cruise-control systems with front sensors that scan the road ahead, then reduce power and apply the brakes when the cars approaches slower vehicles. This technology was successfully tested on Germany's famed high-speed Autobahn freeway system.

Cadillac plans to offer its Super Cruise on select 2013 models. This technology uses fully automatic steering, braking and lane centering to allow hands-free operation for an extended period of time, but only during optimal highway driving conditions.

And parent General Motors is aggressively developing its line of autonomous safety features that monitor everything from blind spots to high beams.

Google's Levandowski says improved safety is the root of his company's autonomous initiative. He noted that 90 per cent of all car crashes are caused by human error and he theorized that driverless vehicle technology could eliminate a "huge chunk" of the injuries and deaths from these collisions.

The U.S. National Highway Transportation Safety Admin-

By the numbers

400,000

Google reports that its driverless vehicles have logged more than 400,000 kilometres of testing since 2009, with only two fender-benders. And one of those was caused by human error when the driver forgot he switched operating modes from auto drive to manual drive, which is a choice these vehicles offer. Google expects to log at least another 1.6 million test kilometres before it offers the technology to the general public.



The most publicized proponent of so-called autonomous vehicles is Google, which outfitted this Toyota Prius with the necessary gear to drive without being driven. GOOGLE

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istration (NHSTA) estimates that vehicle crashes account for \$200 billion US a year in societal costs and for more than 30,000 fatalities south of the border, making it the leading cause of death for people aged 5-34.

And while development of driverless technology continues to gain traction, skepticism persists. Computers still crash and fail, and many drivers aren't ready to trade their steering wheel for a microchip. Pricing, legislation and insurance hurdles also exist.

Google's hope is that mass production through a business partnership will help make these vehicles affordable to John Q. Public. But each of Google's test vehicles carries about \$200,000 worth of computer equipment, so a wide price gap obviously needs to be bridged.

Government regulation may also be as stiff as the price. Nevada remains the only U.S. state that allows companies to legally test driverless vehicles on state roads, provid-

ing a \$1-to-\$3-million insurance bond is posted. California, Florida, Oklahoma and Hawaii are in the process of legalizing robotic cars, but legislative reluctance in some states could slow or stall product development.

Yet, Google remains diligent and undaunted in its push to develop driverless technology, recently meeting with insurance companies to determine where liability might fall in the event of a crash. Would the driver take the blame, or would accountability fall on the automaker that developed the technology? These issues must be settled before autonomy becomes commonplace, but Google is committed and confident, estimating driverless technology will be consumer-ready in 10 to 15 years.

"I think it's time for us to break that cycle and actually bring them to market sooner," Levandowski said.

"I don't think we need to wait 10 years for the next model or body styles to come out to build this technology."



Autonomous vehicles are not really new. This Chevy Tahoe competed in a 100-kilometre driverless obstacle course — back in 1997 — and won. Obviously, the technology will have to come down in size and cost for it to become feasible. WHEELBASE MEDIA

Quote

"In the coming years, autonomous driving systems paired with advanced safety systems could help eliminate the crash altogether by interceding on behalf of drivers before they're even aware of a hazardous situation."

John Capp, GM's director of Global Active Safety Electronics and Innovation

S.H.I.E.L.D. agency depends on superhero power — and Acuras

In the spotlight.
Automaker getting some serious exposure in films like *The Avengers*

MICHAEL GOETZ
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Don't you just hate it when supervillains from other worlds descend upon New York City? The mess! The congestion! The cancellation of sporting and cultural events! The difficulty in hailing a cab! And how about the looming possibility of Earth's annihilation?

So thank heavens for S.H.I.E.L.D., the international peacekeeping agency of the Marvel Comics Universe.

With Nick Fury running the show, and its crack team of operatives and scientists, the agency is well equipped to take care of extraterrestrial incidents.

When things get really hairy, as it did in New York recently, Fury is even able to call upon the services of *The Avengers*, a disparate but effective band of superheroes.

But let's talk about the cars and trucks used by S.H.I.E.L.D. They're all Acura vehicles — MDX and ZDX crossovers, and TL sedans. Did anybody else notice this?

Your investigative reporter certainly did, and was determined to find out how and why Acura was so entrenched with S.H.I.E.L.D. To that end, we immediately requested an interview with Nick Fury, but he was unavailable (something about being buried in script development on a pro-

ject called *Snakes on a Plane*, the Prequel).

But we did manage to talk to David Gardner, vice-president of marketing and sales for Acura Canada. Turns out that Acura America struck a promotional and marketing deal with Marvel Studios, and the deal actually goes back to the *Iron Man II* film.

Acura is in the midst of launching several new products with the new brand tagline, "When man and machine connect, extraordinary happens."

According to Gardner, a continued association with *Iron Man* seemed like a no-brainer, considering that the heavy-metal superhero is man-machine exaggerated and glorified.

In addition to the timing and *Iron Man* content, *The Avengers* is all about excitement, another element that Acura wants to incorporate into its revised brand promise.

"If you watch that movie, there is no way you can say that wasn't an exciting event," says Gardner. "Excitement, emotion, engagement are what we're after at Acura."

He notes that Acura's excitement and emotional appeal has been a little lacking of late, because of its increased dependence on SUVs and crossovers, which now make up about 56 per cent of overall sales volume.

"What really builds brand image in premium segments are the sedans and the sports sedans," says Gardner.

So get ready for more focus on sporting sedans from Acura, starting with the all-new entry-level ILX this spring, and the new RLX flagship sedan next spring.

And about 36 months



Actor Robert Downey Jr., a.k.a. Iron Man, arrives at *The Avengers* premiere in a convertible version of the Acura NSX concept. ACURA

away is the ultimate sporting-premium Acura — the mid-engine supercar known as NSX. Although only shown in concept form so far, a convertible version made a cameo appearance at the very end of the movie, with Tony Stark in the driver's seat.

Acura's latest new vehicle, the redesigned RDX crossover, also makes a cameo appearance.

We could tell you when and where exactly, but we won't. Because the only thing worse than super-aliens destroying your afternoon in New York is breaching movie-spoiler etiquette.



Samuel L. Jackson, who plays Nick Fury in *The Avengers*, is pictured with a militarized Acura MDX at *The Avengers* premiere. ACURA

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Bridgestone still needs to work out several kinks before this tire hits the market. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

Airless tires could take the pressure out of driving

Driving Force. Not just a 'pie-in-the-sky' idea — Bridgestone wants to make tire commercially viable

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Your vehicle isn't just riding on its tires — it's also riding on the cushion of air that's inside them. A tire that has lost all of its air won't get you anywhere, and even one that's only lost some of its air pressure can affect your vehicle's handling and fuel economy.

Although none are on the market yet, several companies are working on tires that don't need any air at all, including Bridgestone.

"It's called the Non-Pneumatic Concept Tire," says Elizabeth Lewis, public relations coordinator for Bridgestone Americas.

"There's less maintenance to it, there's no risk of flat tires and there are major end-of-life possibilities."

The airless tire consists of a spoke structure made

Tire talk

- Concept airless tires that have been presented to the public include the Michelin Tweel, and a military tire developed by Resilient Technologies of Wisconsin.
- Currently-available run-flat tires will work even when they've lost all their air, but only for short distances to get you to a shop for repair.

of thermoplastic resin, surrounded by a rubber tread. Everything in the tire can be recycled, and it can be retreaded numerous times with new rubber as needed before the entire tire has to be replaced.

Bridgestone has been working on the concept for three years, primarily in Japan, and in smaller, lower-speed applications such as electric golf carts.

"Instead of starting big, they started small, figuring out the major issues and then growing it with the idea of it being a commercially viable tire," Lewis says. "This isn't just pie-in-the-sky. Their eyes are on the vehicles we drive today, and they're look-

ing for a more environmentally-friendly alternative to conventional tires."

There are numerous issues that must be resolved before you'll be actually able to put a set on your car. At higher speeds, some airless tires tend to vibrate and make a lot of noise, although Lewis says that this design hasn't presented that problem.

However, the company still has to deal with concerns related to high-speed handling, long-term durability and performance in extreme temperatures. A marketable design will need to include something to prevent foreign objects from jamming into the spokes, and new manufacturing techniques and equipment will have to be developed for mass production.

Despite the difficulties that must be overcome, Bridgestone will continue to develop the airless tire as part of its commitment to environmental issues, Lewis says.

"It's more than just 'let's make a neat wheel that creates some buzz.' We're trying to improve our company and the products that we produce in the future."

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#M0954, 3.6L DOHC, 6 spd auto, air, tilt, cruise, pw, pdl, remote starter, dual zone climate control, Bluetooth, alloy wheels, am/fm CD/MP3 player, OnStar Turn-by-turn navigation and much more.



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Last-gen RDX was flexible, fun to drive

Second Gear.

2007 to 2012
Acura RDX

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Sporty, agile and packing Acura's patented SH-AWD system, the RDX was a premium compact crossover sport ute that was heavy on the "sport." Competing with the Audi Q5, Infiniti EX and others, the RDX boasted five-passenger seating, a flexible cabin and a laundry-list of must-have gadgets.

With suspension and chassis calibrations intended for driving pleasure over all-out comfort, the RDX was a machine that intended to connect with the enthusiast.

Common Issues

The RDX should be inspected for signs of leakage from the transmission, torque converter seal and rear differential.

Since the RDX is equipped with a turbocharger, shoppers are advised to check for any signs of smoke, either at start-up or after a drive. This could indicate that the turbocharger is wearing out. Note that this component may be pricey to replace, but should last the life of the vehicle if frequent oil changes are carried out. Note that any transmission-related issues with jerkiness, rough shifting or "slippage" could be caused by a poorly-charged battery or bad sensor. If you note any issues with gear shifting, be sure to have the transmission and associated electronics inspected by a mechanic.



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Engine



All models got a 2.3-litre VTEC Turbo four-cylinder engine producing 240 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft of torque. A paddle-shiftable five-speed automatic was standard.

What Owners Like



Performance, handling, style and overall value were highly rated by Acura RDX owners.

Flexible, all-season utility and confident traction in virtually every situation were also noted.

What Owners Dislike



Small rear seats, fuel mileage and a rough ride on some surfaces were the most common complaints of the RDX.

Verdict

The RDX looks like a fairly reliable used crossover buy that should readily impress active, family-minded driving enthusiasts. A dealer-serviced model with a mechanical thumbs-up is your safest bet.

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Even drivers can do a little daily good

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The People for Good movement, or at least its ad campaign, has been around for a year or so now. You must have seen the ads, extolling you to do such good deeds as "Offer your seat to a stranger," "Smile for no reason," or (my favourite) "Give your fellow driver five fingers — wave."

I think it's a great idea for a movement, and some of the video ads are hilarious, especially the one where a guy named Steve gives up his subway seat to a very pregnant woman. She is so thankful, she says she will name her new daughter Steve. "Or Emily," she says finally.

But I wonder how much impact it is having on the driving community. I couldn't say I've noticed any appreciable uptick in driving civility over the last year. I'm still waiting for just one cabbie to let me in a lane like they routinely



While at a stoplight, have you ever randomly smiled and waved at the person in the car next to you? It's considered a good deed. ISTOCK

expect me to let them in, still waiting for three or four cars to run a yellow before I can make my left turn at a light, still waiting for the Chrysler Lebron doing 90 km/h to get out of the passing lane so I can, well, pass.

But maybe it will eventually gain traction through attrition and through the good it makes the "giver" feel, regardless of whether his or her

acts are reciprocated. I know I always feel good when someone gives me a small wave to acknowledge that I let them into a lane.

Letting someone into a lane is my most frequent good-deed driving act. I thought I should stretch out a bit with the goodness, so I perused the Good Ideas section of the People for Good website (peopleforgood.ca).

I didn't get through all the 1,000-plus posted suggestions, because, well, it was too depressing to read all the good things I'm not doing presently. Although I should mention I do this one: "Pick up dog poo that is not from your dog."

I do that because the poo is on my lawn.

Most of the car suggestions are stuff you should al-

ready be doing, like allowing people to merge, offering rides, giving pedestrians the benefit of the doubt, etc. But there are novel ones as well, such as giving up a prime parking spot, and buying a coffee for the person behind you in the drive-through.

I also like the one about leaving a parking slip with some time left on it by the ticket machine for the next

People for Good movement

Suggested Good Ideas, Driving Division:

- Give up a prime parking spot.
- Stop to let someone cross the street.
- Let people know when their taillights are out.
- Drive an elderly person home with their groceries.
- Buy a coffee for the person behind you in the drive-through.

person to use. But I might be partial to it not because it's good, but because it's more about sticking it to the Man — another worthy cause.

Some of the others are bit quirkier.

"At a stoplight, spontaneously smile and wave at the next person in the car next to you."

I've made up my mind to try a few of the suggestions on the list, automotive and otherwise — but not that one.

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'If you have the money, you can find a plate'

Baghdad. Licence plates can go for \$4,000 and up in Iraq as rising car sales put pressure on scarce supply

By the time Ibrahim Khaled Mohammed turned to a car dealer looking for an offer, his 1983 Volkswagen Passat could barely move.

But here in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the bald tires, balky engine and three decades of wear weren't much of a problem. What the buyer really wanted was the old white licence plate, a commodity far more valuable than the rusting clunker itself.

The dealer paid Mohammed \$3,800, counted out in U.S. hundred-dollar bills. "Without the plate, it wouldn't have been worth more than \$500," Mohammed said.

Demand for new cars is soaring in Iraq as salaries rise and the level of violence creeps lower. That is good news for automakers such as General



Ali Kamal, seen reflected in the glass, receives his car plate at the traffic management centre in Baghdad.

Motors and Kia Motors, which are reporting a big jump in sales here.

The boom is proving lucrative too for dealers of recycled licence plates, who profit from a quintessentially Iraqi conundrum: In many cases, the government will not issue new plates on vehicles bought from private dealerships.

As a result, many new car buyers pay middlemen for plates salvaged from old vehicles. That can add thousands of dollars to the price of a new car — effectively imposing a tax on first-time buyers that ends up in the hands

of savvy businessmen rather than government coffers. "Go to a car dealer, and they'll say: Do you want it with a plate or without?" said Ibrahim Jamil, a businessman who occasionally deals in cars. "If you have the money, you can find a plate."

Prices for popular Baghdad tags have skyrocketed past \$4,000, up from just a few hundred dollars in 2005, according to Jamil and others in the trade. Those looking for plates often turn to extended family or friends, and even knock on the doors of strangers with a broken-down jalopy parked outside, hoping they'd be will-



Hadi Salam removes the licence plate from his old car at a vehicle scrapyard last month in Baghdad.

PHOTOS BY KHALID MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ing to sell the tags.

Because Iraqi plates include the name of the province, those from ethically and religiously mixed regions like the capital are more valuable than ones from areas where one sect predominates. The cheapest plates, dealers say, come from Anbar, Diyala and Salahuddin — provinces where Iraq's minority Sunnis are concentrated.

"If you're a Shiite living in a Shiite neighbourhood, you won't buy a plate from Ramadi," the capital of Anbar, said plate dealer Khaled Diwan. "You'd be too afraid."

He estimates he makes \$500 on each plate he sells.

For around \$4,500, he can find you a plate and take care of the paperwork of changing the plate's registration to the new car owner. The real value, though, is getting enough plates to have ready-installed on the new Hyundais and Kias he sells out of a friend's dealership.

"A car with a plate already on it (is) much easier to sell," he said.

A surge in new car sales is driving up demand.

General Motors says it sold 32,000 vehicles in Iraq last year. That is up from 19,000 in 2010 and fewer than 1,500 just five years ago. Iraq recently became

GM's second biggest regional market after Saudi Arabia, said John Stadwick, the company's Mideast president and managing director. Business is so good that GM is building a fancy new showroom that Stadwick predicts "will probably be the nicest building in Baghdad" when it opens later this year.

Ford and Chrysler are also reporting gains. So are European and Asian automakers. South Korea's Kia sold more than 9,000 vehicles in the first three months of this year, up 47 per cent over the same period a year ago, according to spokesman Michael Choo.

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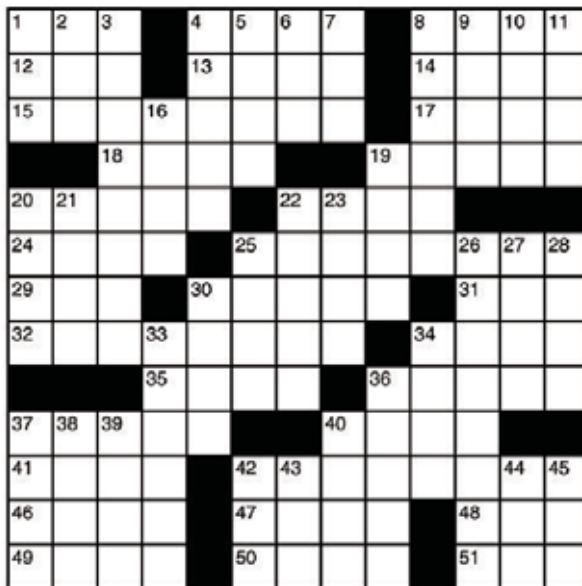
Crossword

Across

- 1 Computer acronym
- 2 Roe provider
- 8 Admitting air
- 12 Lawyers' org.
- 13 Lyricist's subject
- 14 Humdinger
- 15 Hat maker
- 17 Handle
- 18 Pack of cards
- 19 Zoo structures
- 20 Enthusiast, and then some
- 22 Centrifuge insert
- 24 Protuberance
- 25 Easy chair
- 29 Work with
- 30 Spot on TV?
- 31 Commotion
- 32 "Ich bin ein —"
- 34 Goblet feature
- 35 Coop collection
- 36 Down East
- 37 Toes' woes
- 40 Picasso contemporary
- 41 Settled down
- 42 Youngman joke
- 46 Stereo set
- 47 Jack Benny interjection
- 48 Shock partner
- 49 Yule refrain
- 50 Oodles
- 51 Guided

Down

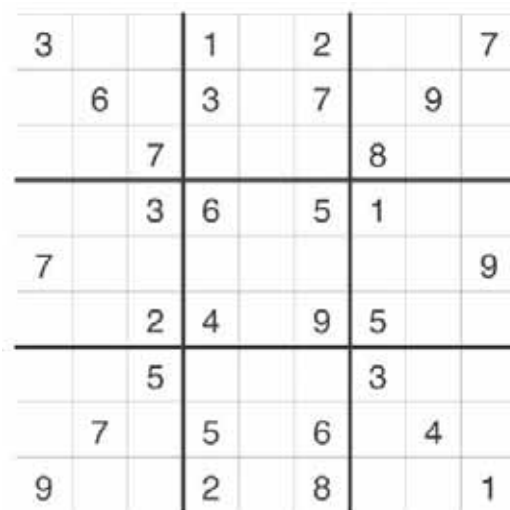
- 1 Aries
- 2 Sapporo sash
- 3 Seasickness
- 4 Glossy
- 5 Gridlock noise
- 6 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 7 Aachen article
- 8 Acid neutralizer
- 9 Freud cohort
- 10 Shaving-cream additive
- 11 Abrades
- 16 Bound
- 19 Ump's announce-ment
- 20 Blooper
- 21 Stratagem
- 22 Irritates
- 23 Torte topper
- 25 Pugilists' arena
- 26 Countrywide
- 27 Paradise
- 28 Appian Way ter-
minus
- 30 Pen pals?
- 33 Soup legume
- 34 Rani's garment
- 36 Factories
- 37 Songwriter Sammy
- 38 Medley
- 39 Abundant



- 40 Dissolve
- 42 Pussycat's partner
- 43 Ultra-modernist

- 44 Mate of 1-Down
- 45 Roulette bet

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	7	9	2	3
7	5	9	3	2	4	1	8	6
3	8	2	1	8	9	5	7	4
5	9	6	7	3	2	6	4	1
4	3	6	9	1	8	7	5	2
1	2	7	5	4	6	8	3	9
6	4	1	2	7	5	3	9	8
2	7	3	8	9	1	4	6	5
9	8	5	4	6	3	2	1	7

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

Z P R P P W X Z M R X Q G W M W T,
R R G Z K R P Q A W L ' J P Q Q J K
T Q Z M Q P K R P Q - L R M A.
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE MY FATHER
REALLY LOVES LICKING ENVELOPES, PEOPLE
OFTEN LIKE TO CALL HIM A SEALING FAN.**
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals N



For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

WEDNESDAY



MAX: 16°
MIN: 11°

THURSDAY



MAX: 13°
MIN: 6°

FRIDAY



MAX: 14°
MIN: 6°



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WEATHER SPECIALIST
"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20.

No matter how big the challenge, you will emerge victorious.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

Whatever you turn your hand to today will work out better than you expected.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20.

Someone who does not want to see you succeed will try to talk you out of attempting something that could boost your reputation. Don't let them.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22.

This is going to be a busy day for you — you will be rushing here, there and everywhere trying to get it all done. Set yourself a time deadline.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

You may have to get tough with someone who has let you down, but don't go too far and say things that might make it difficult for you to work together in future.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22.

You will pull out all the stops to be the biggest and the best at what you do.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22.

You can move either this way or that way today. But it has to be one or the other.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.

A task you have to complete will be easier than you expected.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec.

21. You won't lack for advice today — everyone wants to tell you what you should be doing — but if you are smart you will ignore it all and listen only to your own inner voice.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20.

Pluto in your sign is energized by Mars today, which means you can't lose.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18.

Some people will be shocked by how far you are prepared to go to get what you desire over the next 24 hours, but they shouldn't be.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20.

Don't sit at home watching the world through your window or, worse, your television screen.

SALLY BROMPTON



Caption Contest

"I wish mom would stop with the Princess Leia fantasy."

John

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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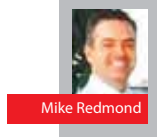
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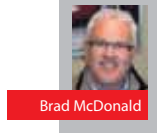
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#2R10547A

\$13,860



#EN3169

\$19,640



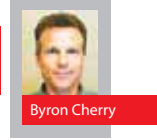
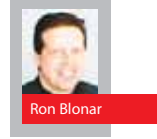
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\$5,860



#EN3121A

\$11,860



#2AV2599A

\$16,860



#2R16728A

\$14,340



#P3143

\$25,640



#2R35302A

\$29,860



#2R12720A

\$28,640



#1250575A

\$12,740



#2R13198A

\$15,860



#2CL6764A

\$39,640



#2R27485A, LOADED.

\$24,860

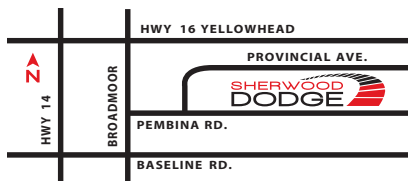


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Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-2pm;
Sun. CLOSED

All prices net of any dealer discounts and manufacturer rebates and do not include applicable taxes or GST. Subvented (discounted) interest rates not available on all models, see dealer for details. "No charge Cummins engine" and "No charge Hemi engine" are available on new 2011 models. Payments are "OAC" and based on longest available terms, i.e.: New 2011 Ram 1500 Q/C 4x4 SXT, \$157 b/w for 96 months, 5.99%, cob: \$6622. Vehicles may not be exactly as illustrated, file photos used. Please contact dealer with questions or for further clarifications.